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INTERNAL

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1. Leadership. Merely the publicized activities of Moscow resident CPSU CC Presidium members indicate a pace that could well explain CC Secretary F. R. Kozlov's incapacitation for heart trouble. A second and more authoritative Soviet source this week stated that Kozlov seems to be recovering satisfactorily and may be permitted to return to work early in June. N. S. Khrushchev and most of the Moscow-resident full members of the Presidium were present at five group appearances during the week. These included attendance at the All-Union Congress of Soviet Architects and a performance of a Cuban dance ensemble on the 18th and, on the next day, at the opening day ceremonies at the British Industrial Trade Fair and the concluding concert in honor of the Plenum of the RSFSR Union of Composers. On the 20th, Khrushchev was one of six of the leadership to attend a Soviet reception in honor of the British Minister of Trade and his associates here for the Trade Fair. Khrushchev's personal prestige as a successful "statesman" was enhanced by the announcement on May 20 that he would soon meet with President Kennedy. It was announced May 23 that his July 1960 pronouncements to Soviet intellectuals, thus far published only in the latest Kommunist No. 7 (Weeka No. 19 of May 12), would be printed in a mass edition this week. With appropriate fanfare, a collection of his 1961 speeches on agricultural themes also appeared. (see below.)

Presidium Member and RSFSR "Premier" D. S. Polyansky continued his provincial tour begun earlier (which has thus far included Tomsk, Kemero, Barnaul, Stavinsk, Provop'evsk) by visiting Tyumen' May 19. On a similar tour, Presidium Candidate Member and CC RSFSR Bureau Deputy Chairman G. I. Voronov has visited thus far Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude and Chita (May 18-23). Ukrainian First Secretary and CPSU CC Presidium Member N. V. Podgornyy attended a republic Central Committee Plenum in Kiev. Both First Deputy Chairman of the Coucil of Ministers A. I. Mikoyan and A. N. Kosygin were very busy with protocol and other matters. As Mikoyan was especially busy, his activities enjoyed relatively more publicity than those of Kosygin. That a continued lack of news concerning CC Secretary O. V. Kuusinen (not been mentioned in the press since April 14) has not yet given rise to speculation or rumors may be due to his irregular public appearance record in the past. P. N. Pospelov, the only person of Presidium rank to attend a function on the 25th anniversary of the Central Museum of Lenin last week, also was the sole Presidium representative at the general meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences which elected M. V. Keldysh to be President of the Academy to replace retiring President A. N. Nesmeyanov. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY).

2. Agitprop Activity Related to XXII CPSU Congress: A "recent" conference in the Central Committee apparatus of Party Propaganda-Agitation (Agitprop) officials from union republic and lower party levels throughout the Soviet Union (Pravda of May 21 and 24) is part of the current drive to prepare Party propaganda organs and propagandists both for the propaganda campaign preliminary to the XXII CPSU Congress in October and for the subsequent mass campaign to "explain" and obtain support for the "results" of the Congress. The May 24 Pravda summary account of the conference

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notes that there is currently under way "broad preparations for the explanation in depth of the historical significance of the documents which will be published for pre-congress consideration," thus suggesting that drafts of the new party programme and statutes are being circulated within party circles now and may be published fairly soon. An address to the conference by L. F. Il'ichev, Chief of the Central Committee's Section of Propaganda and Agitation for Union Republics, was not even summarized in the generally uninformative Pravda account.

Guides for current "ideological-educational" (propaganda) work were said to be the decisions of the last two congresses, and of CC plenums, Khrushchev's speeches, the March 11, 1959 CC decree on mass-political work in Stalinsk Oblast and the basic January 9, 1960 decree on current party propaganda tasks. (Surprisingly, no mention was made of the new but as yet unpublished May 5, 1961 CC decree on improving the selection and training of propaganda personnel, the subject of articles in Pravda of May 16 and Party Life No. 10. -- see Weeka No. 20 of May 19). (OFFICIAL USE ONLY).

3. Old and New Personality Cults. In connection with preparations for widespread propaganda activity related to the XXII CPSU Congress (see above), it is no coincidence that two books which should be particularly handy for propagandists in this regard have appeared in the past few days - a collection of the "most important decisions" of the CPSU 1954- 1961 entitled "Questions of Ideological Work," and the newest collection of Khrushchev's speeches (starting with his January 17, 1961 CC Plenum speech) with the title "Raising of Welfare of the People and Tasks of Further Increase of Production of Agricultural Products." A press review of the first of these books (Pravda of May 22) seems pointedly to comment on the inclusion in this collection of the anti-Stalin party decrees of February 26 and June 30, 1956 condemning the "cult of personality." This permits an interesting contrast with long reviews of the new Khrushchev speech collection (Izvestiya of May 23 and Pravda of May 24) which in effect represent a notable increment to the Khrushchev "personality image." These reviews give Khrushchev personal credit in glowing terms for all agricultural achievements and initiatives since the September 1953 Central Committee Plenum, and the authors, (Sel'skaya Zhizn'Editor V. Polykov and Deputy Minister of Agriculture K. Pysin, respectively), were eloquent in citing Khrushchev's superior personal attributes, his genius both as a theoretition and practical executive, his foresight as an initiator and his close ties with admiring, enthusiastic Soviet workers, peasants, and scholars. In reverse, these fullsome tributes sound a bit like a point by point defense of agricultural policies and actions which may have encountered opposition or aroused doubts and dissatisfaction. If so, the reviews also make it clear that Khrushchev's personal prestige is directly linked with these policies and that, on these agricultural matters at least, his authority is not to be questioned. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. Reminders of Past and Potential Stalinist Measures. There have been two indirect but obvious reminders this week of the old "Stalin Days" of the personality cult and the harsh excesses of that period. The local press account of the May 20 Turkmen CC Plenum which replaced T. A. Charyyev by A. Niyazov as a Turkmen CC Secretary supplemented the May 23 Pravda

summary by noting the removal from the republic central committee of four persons, one of whom, O. Shikhmuradov (who, thrown out of the Party altogether) was said to have been responsible for crude violations of revolutionary legality during a period of work in the organs of the NKVD 1937-38"! (Turkmenskaya Iskra of May 21).

In a period when the Soviet press and journals are explaining the need for the recent and continuing strengthening of punitive measures against corrupt officials, speculators, "parasites" and other anti-state elements (a May 24 Supreme Soviet Ukase providing for up to three years imprisonment for account padders and other falsifiers of plan fulfillment records is the latest such move), there may be particular significance to a long article in the latest issue (No. 5, 1961) of Soviet State and Law by N. R. Mironov, the latter a high ranking career security police figure under Stalin, now holds a very influential position as Chief of the Central Committee Section on Administrative Organs (almost certainly including watchdog responsibilities for police, judicial and security activities in and out of the party) which is publicized only rarely. In this article, Mironov, identified only by name, argues that the continuing struggle against criminals, anti-state and anti-social elements requires the even stricter application of compulsion by police, prosecuting, judicial and state security organs along with preventive-educational procedures and activity by the new public-social organizations. As opposed to the mistaken views of "certain officials," he holds that the "withering away" of state compulsive organs and activities will be a very, very slow and gradual process. His recommendations for tightening up of prison and labor camp administration, the granting of paroles and the reduction of sentences sound ominous. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

5. US-Soviet Relations. Soviet press treatment of the coming Vienna meeting between the President and Khrushchev has contrived to convey a generally hopeful impression which, while avoiding predictions as to the outcome, warns of the futility of the President's taking a "from positions of strength" approach. The press has largely avoided direct comment on the prospects for the meeting, but extensive quotations from world press sources have been used to stress expectations that it can contribute to relaxation of tensions and, subsequently, to peaceful solution of questions in dispute. Other accompanying themes have been US public disappointment over the administration's foreign policy, public pressure for policy changes, and the activities of various alleged "cold war" forces in the US which are opposed to the meeting.

The approach of the Vienna meeting has had some slight effect on certain aspects of Soviet reportage on the US. A Pravda (May 25) article by a member of the group of Soviet journalists on a US trip struck some conventional notes on good relations between the two countries in the past, including during the Second World War. The present "private" Crimea conference of Soviet-US "public figures," a follow-up to last fall's Dartmouth meeting, was cited in the press as an example of fruitful US-Soviet discussion. On the other hand, the Alabama race incidents, although lightly treated to begin with

received an increasing volume of coverage during the week. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

6. Geneva Conference on Laos. As the Geneva Conference on Laos entered its second week, the Soviet press painted a hopeful picture of prospects for a peaceful settlement. The impression was created that the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting in Vienna might have a beneficial effect on the outcome of the Conference. The implication seemed to be that an agreement on Laos would come about mainly as a result of changes in the US position. It was claimed that such changes, supported by a growing body of opinion in the Government as well as among the public, are dictated by the alleged weakness of the US position in Laos.

Hardly anything was reported about activities in Laos itself and the efforts by Souvanna Phouma and the NLHX to force the Royal Lao Government into a coalition. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

7. Algeria. The Soviet press has treated the Evian talks circumspectly, avoiding predictions as to the outcome. The most prominent comment, a Pravda (May 21) "Journalist" article, was largely a rhetorical statement of belief that Algeria would gain its independence, coupled with criticism of de Gaulle's May 8 speech. The French President was said to have offered the Algerians a choice between association, described as a new form of colonialism, and division of their country, and to have tried to equate the FLN with French puppet groups in Algeria.

CPSU CC Presidium member Mukhitdinov was reported in the press to have met the first secretary of the Algerian Communist Party, Labri Bukhali, on May 24 while the latter was on his way through Moscow. There was no indication of Bukhali's further itinerary.

8. Berlin/Germany. The break-down in negotiations on a cultural agreement between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic was reported by the Soviet press as resulting from West German insistence on including West Berlin in the agreement. In criticizing Bonn's attitude, Pravda of May 25 reiterated the Soviet position that West Berlin is not part of the FRG.

The development in the cultural negotiations may explain the timing of an Izvestiya (May 24) attack against West Berlin in an article under the caption "Provocations for Export." As provocations, Izvestiya cited the Bundesrat meeting scheduled to be held in West Berlin June 16, the Bundestag passage (March 16) of the banking law which provides for an office to be established in West Berlin, and the Congress of Upper Silesians held in West Berlin in March. It repeated the standard Soviet claim that the FRG has no rights in West Berlin and that this was agreed to by the Western powers at the 1959 Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva.

The FRG Embassy here has confirmed that they have resubmitted to the Soviet Foreign Office a list of 6,000 "German citizens" in the USSR who have applied for repatriation to West Germany. However, they think that the outlook for positive action on the list is not promising.

9. Iran. While the Soviet press has continued to confirm its reporting of Iranian events largely to brief news announcements, an Izvestiya (May 19) article gave some details painting a picture of rapidly growing discontent there. The article reported large meetings and strikes, including a May 18 National Front meeting in Teheran calling for immediate parliamentary elections and praising Mossadegh, (who was said to have moved to Teheran). A brief Pravda (May 22) item reported without comment the establishment in Iran of a "movement for the freedom of Iran" supporting the National Front, neutrality, and Mossadegh's policy.

10. Congo. The May 23 press reported the arrival of five Ethiopian aircraft in Stanleyville with supplies of food and medical upplies sent by the Ethiopian government to the Gizenga authorities for distribution in Equatorial and Kivu provinces. Gizenga's recent Stanleyville press conference, in which he made a policy statement (also sent to the UN and a number of heads of government), was reported in considerable detail but without comment.

11. Visits. The Prime Minister of Somalia, Abdirascid, arrived in Moscow May 24 on an official visit.

The Soviet press announced that Sudanese Prime Minister Abboud will arrive on a visit to the Soviet Union on July 17.

India. GOI Minister of Agriculture Patil has arrived in Moscow following a stop-over in Tashkent. Indian General Prosecutor Setalvada, who is inspecting juridical institutions in the USSR, was received by Khrushchev May 22. Indian industrialist Birla, also visiting the USSR, met with Khrushchev on May 20. Mrs. Indira Ghandi, Nehru's daughter, has been in Moscow for several days en route to Paris. ~~The Embassy has mentioned her~~ The Embassy has been informed that she is seeing "things" rather than people while here. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MILITARY

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Robert I. Owen
First Secretary of Embassy

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